

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WATERSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT Councillor Beverley Perkins (Chairman)
Councillor Belinda Cross
Councillor Peter Clements
Councillor Sylvia Wargent
Mr S Collis (CBC)
Mr S Belbin
Mr I Crossley
Ms J Elmer
Mr R Haward
Mr P Leggett
Ms L Livingstone
Mr D Murr
Mr B Turner
Mr J Welham

IN ATTENDANCE Town Clerk: Mr D G Tucker

Action

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Mr P Fitt (Dabchicks), and Mr P Clarke.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2014 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

(Proposed Councillor Clements, Seconded Mr S Collis).

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

3. WATERFRONT ISSUES: PLANNING (PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT), COMMUNAL AREAS INCLUDING THE 'HARD', JETTY AND VILLAGE GREEN

Beach Erosion - Mr Welham advised that the monthly surveys were continuing and it was noted that the damaged groynes were being repaired.

Reports that the old tank traps on the beach in front of the New Orleans flats were becoming dangerous had been received. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners pointing out the risk to the public.

Bradwell (FED Discharge) - Councillor Wargent advised that there had been a great deal of press comment re the FED discharge.

Mr Turner (representing BANNING) reported that he had requested a meeting with the Environment Agency who had agreed to put in more monitoring, including how much waste was actually being pumped out, as this is unknown at present.

Only a small number of radio nucleide have been checked, and this appears to be a grave omission.

The Agency was adamant that the discharge could not be stopped however.

Both sediment and water sampling is being carried out, but NOT at the end of the discharge pipe, and we intend to request that they reinstate sampling there ASAP.

Details of the water movement had also been requested to understand flows and dispersal of any discharge.

Councillor Wargent commented that Magnox were under pressure from the Government to save money where possible, due to the high cost of closure.

It was noted that Mr Jenkin MP, and Borough Councillor P Sheane have promised to ensure full disclosure.

Mr Murr asked if the Committee felt more testing should take place, but Mr Haward, for the Oystermen, advised that there is a full sampling programme of shellfish waters (overseen by CBC) to inform Classification of shellfish waters and ensure safety of oysters harvested. This is overseen by the Food Standards Agency and so additional sampling is not required. If private individuals harvest and consume oysters that have not been purified then they do so at their own risk.

Mersea Recharge Project - Finances and the necessary permits were now being sought, and Mr Welham commented that it was essential that care as to the type of material being deposited, and its eventual location was taken, given that account deposits (Penny Hole Creek) had now been washed away.

The Christmas gales had decimated the Cobmarsh, now down to 40% of its' former size.

Councillor Perkins advised that full details were available on the Mersea Recharge Project website.

Planning & Licensing - Checks on caravan tenants residential status were continuing, with a recent check revealing a further seven instances where residential use is suspected. WMTC work with East Mersea Parish Council to make representations to CBC Planning. East Mersea Parish Council and residents have a put in place a process to record and report those that appear to be permanently resident.

Crime and Security - Mr Welham reported that there had been no recent incident reports on either the causeway area or the beach huts.

Mr Collis reported that there had been six prosecutions for speeding in the harbour area at Brightlingsea, perhaps these should be publicised at the start of the 2015 season. Special Branch Police have requested that all water users keep a close watch for potential terrorist activity and illegal immigrants.

Parking of trolleys on the pontoon and walkways is overseen by both the West Mersea Fishermans Association and Colchester Borough Council, and it was noted that security and safety is an ongoing problem.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Fishermans Association to determine what controls were in place.

Mr Collis was asked to remind the oystermen and the fishermen of the correct parking procedures in the area, but Mr Haward commented that some people parking in the area had no connection with either organisation.

4. REPORTS FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEETINGS

Mr Collis advised that work was being carried out on the repairs to the groynes, and damage to the pontoon piles caused by 'Griddle Worms' was being surveyed.

Efforts were underway to secure funding for the pile repairs/replacement as necessary.

Councillor Perkins thanked Peter Clarke's yard on behalf of the Committee for their support of CBC (Steve Collis) in moving boats left on the hammerhead etc.

CCTV Cameras - Positive responses to the requests for contributions to the annual maintenance cost had now been received from all but three of the organisations contacted by Mr Collis.

It was noted that the annual maintenance cost of £240 covers replacement of cameras when necessary, and Councillor Perkins felt that members should see a reduction in their insurance premiums as a result of the cameras.

Beach Huts - Following questions re the sub letting of beach huts it was noted that the issue would be considered by the full Council on 11th September 2014 (Finance & Planning Committee 7.15pm).

5. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Car parking capacity.

6. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd December at 5pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

